Montana
old places - new faces

A Compendium of

Information and Guidelines to the Renaming of Geographic Sites in Montana

as Authorized by HB 412 of the
56th Montana Legislature

Prepared by the
Montana Advisory Committee for HB 412

March 2000

Photo © by Jim Bond

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Introduction

With the passage of House Bill 412 in the Montana legislature, Montana became the second state in the nation to take historic action to remove the name "Squaw" from its mountains, streams, and other sites.

THE MONTANA LAW is an act requiring state landholdings and land managing agencies to identify all geographic features and places under their jurisdiction using the word "Squaw," requiring the agencies to remove the word "Squaw" from any maps, signs, or markers whenever agencies update maps or replace signs and markers because of wear or vandalism, and providing for appointment of an advisory group to develop replacement names and to notify appropriate agencies.

The Advisory Committee for HB 412 has been organized by the Coordinator of Indian Affairs as specified by law and has assumed its responsibility to develop new names for the 74 identified sites in the State of Montana that contain this word.
(See Appendices)

Based on Montana's Constitution of 1972 (Article X, Section 1 (2)) that recognizes the "distinct and unique cultural heritage of American Indians" and its commitment "to the preservation of their cultural integrity," as well as the Board on Geographic Names' policy that "supports and promotes the official use of geographic names derived from Native American Languages," the Advisory Committee encourages the use of names that are derived from Native American Languages.

This packet has been prepared to provide information and support to individuals and groups in Montana who will be involved in their local communities to develop new names for these identified sites. The packet includes the process that will be used by the Committee to make its decisions . It also includes excerpts from the United States Board on Geographic Names (BOGN) manual entitled "Principles, Policies and Procedures."

The Advisory Committee encourages active participation by the various governmental jurisdictions (Tribal, State, Federal, and Local), community organizations, interested individuals and others who wish to be involved in this project to rename the 74 sites.

The Advisory Committee will operate under the Montana Open Meeting Law.

Guidelines for Name Change Process

The Advisory Committee for HB 412 presents the following guidelines for the name change process and will select site names from proposals submitted.

Many of the requirements included in this packet are necessary in order to achieve the acceptance of the U.S. Board on Geographic Names (BOGN), the Federal Agency which makes the final decision.

The HB 412 Advisory Committee will . . .

- accept name change proposals for sites identified per HB 412 from any group, organization, individual, and government at regular meetings as scheduled. (See Appendices)
- prepare case brief, conduct research and place proposals on the docket for consideration.
- receive all support and any opposition from local, state, county, tribes, and public made in testimony before the Committee or submitted, in writing, with names and addresses included.
- take action, in a regularly called meeting, on requests after reviewing the information submitted on the "Invitation to Participate" form, as well as any supportive documentation provided. (See Appendices)
- contact the person and/or group that has submitted a name change to insure that revisions are approved, if the Committee agrees to any minor changes to the proposed name.
- not take action on a name change request if further information is needed to support the name change proposal. The request will be held until additional information is received.
- submit the appropriate request to the Board on Geographic Names, which is the final decision-making authority, if the name change request is approved by a majority of the Committee.

The U. S. Board on Geographic Names process:

- BOGN will render a decision.
- U.S. Secretary of the Interior concurs;
- BOGN will enter the new name into the National Geographic Names Date Base; and
- the new name change is complete!

How to submit a name change to the HB 412 Advisory Committee?

First Step: Identify Site

- Review the list of sites, identified by the Committee in accordance with HB 412, that need a name change. (See Appendices)

Second Step: Gather Support

- Present your ideas to tribal, city, and/or county officials, whichever is appropriate for the site, and ask for letters of support.
- Present your ideas to local groups, organizations, and individuals who will give letters of support. For example: contact your local Chamber of Commerce, businesses, clubs, senior citizens, historical society, etc.)
- Ask Native Americans in your community for their support, and if you live on or near an Indian Reservation, contact the Tribal Culture Committee to seek their support.
- Contact local newspapers, radio and television stations to let them know about your proposal. Ask for news articles or other announcements that will help gather additional community support.
- Contact public and private schools to ask for support from students, teachers, and administrators. This can be a great student project.
- Research old maps and documents to help you identify any original names.

Third Step: Identify and Submit Name to Advisory Committee

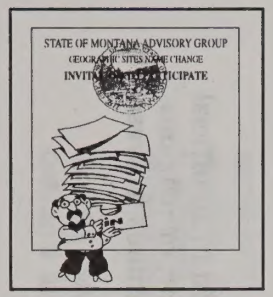
- Identify the name you have chosen on the "Invitation to Participate" form (See Appendices) and send your name change request along with supportive documentation to:

Coordinator of Indian Affairs
Room 202, State Capitol Building
Box 200503
Helena, MT 59620-0503

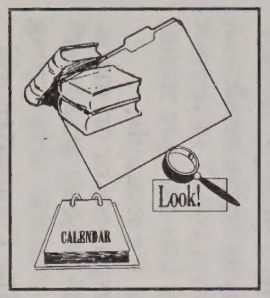
Phone: (406) 444-3713 Fax: (406) 444-1350 E-mail: lryan@state.mt.us

Note: You are welcome to present the name change request to the Advisory Committee at one of their meetings, but your presence is not required.

Process for Securring Approval for a Geographic Name Change

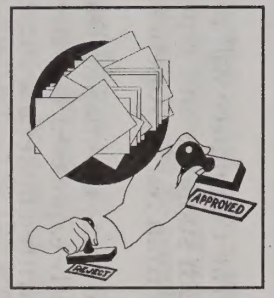


Request is received via Montana Advisory Group **"Invitation to Participate"** form, letter or memo



Advisory Group prepares case brief - Conducts research - Places proposal on docket for consideration

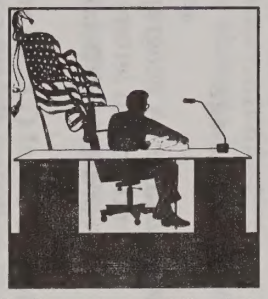
Advisory Group receives input from state, local, county, tribes, classroom projects, and public (potential public hearings near sites)



Advisory Group reviews strengths and weaknesses of each proposal - Refers State Recommendation for each site name to the U. S. Board on Geographic Names (BOGN)

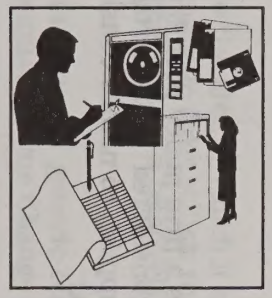
Returned for Corrections

(BOGN) U. S. Board on Geographic Names renders decision on State Recommendation. If there are problems with the State Recommendation, the proposal could be returned to the state for correction.



U. S. Secretary of the Interior concurs

New name now available for all maps, publications, and Montanans to use and enjoy!



Approved new name is entered into the National Geographic Names Data Base, and a decision list is published by (BOGN)

What factors will be considered by the Committee?

Native American Name Usage: The Committee will follow the policy of the Board on Geographic Names, which supports and promotes the official use of geographic names derived from Native American Languages.

Established usage: A geographic name that has appeared consistently in writing and/or has been consistently expressed verbally and that is supported by historical and/or current written materials and/or in folklore is considered to be established.

Historical usage: A geographic name given and used during the early history of a place or feature is considered historical. The name may be either obsolete or in current usage.

Legal usage: A geographic name that appears in a document generated as part of a legal procedure established by a government body is considered legal.

Legislated usage: A geographic name established by a legislative body; for example, Local, Tribal, State or Federal is considered legislated usage.

Local usage: A geographic name commonly and currently used for a feature, verbally or in writing, by persons having frequent enough contact with the site to use the name on a regular basis is considered local usage.

Verbal usage: A geographic name used by people when referring to a place, feature or area in their own language as commonly spoken every day is considered verbal usage.

Written usage: A geographic name in handwritten or printed form; for example, handwritten letters, diaries, or logs, or names printed in newspapers or on maps recorded in official records is considered written usage.

State and Local (Tribal and County) Government Involvement: The Committee will evaluate all proposals in cooperation with State, Federal, Tribal, and Local governments. All organizations and individuals are welcome to participate.

Will the Committee consider derogatory, duplicated or incorrect names?

No.

The Committee has a firm policy prohibiting the inclusion of a word in an official geographic name considered to be derogatory to any racial , ethnic, or religious group. This also applies to names considered obscene or blasphemous in present day cultural context.

Can names of people be used for sites?

The Committee will not consider names that commemorate or may be construed to commemorate a living person. In addition, the person must be deceased at least five years before a commemorative proposal will be considered.

A personal name will not be adopted unless it is determined to be in the public interest to honor the person or family for historical or commemorative reasons. The person or family should be directly associated with the feature being named or should have made "significant" contribution to the area of the feature or the State.

Also, a proposal to commemorate an individual should contain evidence of local support for the proposed name and its application. Letters and petitions with original signatures must be attached.

What is the policy on the use of Native American names?

The Committee supports and promotes the official use of geographic names derived from Native American languages. The expert documentation of these names in current use is therefore encouraged.

Changing names from non -Native American language within Tribal jurisdiction:

Proposals to change widely known, long-published names derived from non-Native American languages for primary features within or partly within areas of Native American Tribal jurisdictions will rarely be considered unless changes have extensive public support and are approved by State and Tribal authorities.

Proposing geographic names derived from Native American languages for geographic features outside areas of Tribal jurisdiction:

All proposals to apply names derived from Native American languages to any of the sites scheduled for a name change by this Advisory Committee, including those outside areas of Tribal jurisdiction, will be given consideration. Proposals of this kind:

- should meet all the requirement for any proposal submitted for consideration as outlined throughout the Advisory Committee Guidelines;

- should be linguistically appropriate to the area in which it is to be applied. That is, in each case, the language from which the name is derived, is or once was spoken in the area by a relatively permanent population; and

- should conform to the guidelines on the use of generic terms as outlined in the HB 412 Advisory Committee Name Change Manual.

What is the U. S. Board on Geographic Names?

In 1890, President Benjamin Harrison established the Board by an executive order to help eliminate confusion and controversy about geographic names and their applications. The order was based on a recognition that conflict in naming geographic features was a detriment to exploring and settling the country. In 1906, President Theodore Roosevelt extended the Board's responsibility to include standardization of all geographic names for Federal use.

For more information, contact:

Executive Secretary
Domestic Geographic Names Committee
U. S. Board on Geographic Names
c/o U.S. Geological Survey
523 National Center
Reston, VA 20192-0523

Phone: (703) 648-4544 Fax: (703) 648-4165 E-mail: rpayne@usgs.gov

HB 412 Advisory Committee

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1999 Montana Legislature

About Bill -- Links

HOUSE BILL NO. 412

INTRODUCED BY C. JUNEAU, G. BECK, R. BUZZAS, B. EGGERS, K. GILLAN, M. GUGGENHEIM, H. HARPER, J. HURDLE, S. KITZENBERG, B. KRENZLER, M. MCCANN, J. MERCER, G. ROUSH, F. SMITH, C. WILLIAMS, J. STOVALL

AN ACT REQUIRING STATE LANDHOLDING AND LANDMANAGING AGENCIES TO IDENTIFY ALL GEOGRAPHIC FEATURES AND PLACES UNDER THEIR JURISDICTION USING THE WORD "SQUAW"; REQUIRING THE AGENCIES TO REMOVE THE WORD "SQUAW" FROM ANY MAPS, SIGNS, OR MARKERS WHENEVER AGENCIES UPDATE MAPS OR REPLACE SIGNS AND MARKERS BECAUSE OF WEAR OR VANDALISM; AND PROVIDING FOR APPOINTMENT OF AN ADVISORY GROUP TO DEVELOP REPLACEMENT NAMES AND NOTIFY APPROPRIATE AGENCIES.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

Section 1. Naming of sites and geographic features -- replacement of word "squaw" -- advisory group. (1) The coordinator of Indian affairs shall appoint an advisory group that will serve on a volunteer basis to consult with local agencies, organizations, and individuals in developing names to replace present site or geographic names that contain the word "squaw".

(2) Each agency of state government that owns or manages public land in the state shall identify any features or places under its jurisdiction that contain the word "squaw" and inform the advisory group of the agency's identification of features or places containing that word. The agency shall ensure that whenever the agency updates a map or replaces a sign, interpretive marker, or any other marker because of wear or vandalism, the word "squaw" is removed and replaced with the name chosen by the advisory group.

(3) The advisory group shall:

(a) notify the U.S. forest service, the Montana departments of commerce and natural resources and conservation, and any other entity that compiles information for and develops maps for the state or for public use of the name change so that it may be reflected on subsequent editions of any maps or informational literature produced by those entities; and

(b) place a formal request with the United States board on geographic names to render a decision on the proposed name change so that the new name will be reflected on all United States board on geographic names maps.

Section 2. Notification to tribal governments. The secretary of state shall send a copy of [this act] to each tribal government located on the seven Montana reservations and to the Little Shell band of Chippewa.

Section 3. Codification instruction. [Section 1] is intended to be codified as an integral part of Title 2, chapter 15, part 1, and the provisions of Title 2, chapter 15, part 1, apply to [section 1].

- END -

Sites in Montana with 'S' word by County

County	No. of Sites	Feature's Current Name	Type
Beaverhead	7	Indian Squaw Mine	Mine
		Squaw Creek	Stream
		Squaw Creek	Stream
		Squaw Creek (historical)	Locale
		Squaw Lake	Lake
		Squaw Mountain	Summit
		Squaw Pass	Gap
Big Horn	2	South Fork Squaw Creek	Stream
		Squaw Creek	Stream
Blaine	2	Squaw Butte	Summit
		Squaw Creek	Stream
Broadwater	1	Squaw Hill	Summit
Carbon	1	Squaw Creek	Stream
Carter	1	Squaw Reservoir	Reservoir
Cascade	3	Squaw Creek	Stream
		Squaw Creek	Stream
		Squaw Hollow	Valley
Choteau	1	Squaw Creek	Stream
Custer	2	Short Squaw Creek	Stream
		Squaw Creek	Stream
Fergus	2	Squaw Coulee	Valley
		Squaw Grave Butte	Summit
Flathead	2	Squaw Meadows	Flat
		Squaw Meadows Creek	Stream
Gallatin	3	Squaw Creek	Stream
		Squaw Creek Bridge	Bridge
		Squaw Creek Forest Services Station	Locale
Garfield	4	Dry Fork Squaw Creek	Stream
		Little Squaw Creek	Stream
		Squaw Creek	Stream
		Squaw Creek School (historical)	School
Glacier	5	Squaw Buttes	Spring
		Squaw Creek	Stream
		Squaw Flat	Flat
		Squaw Mountain	Summit
		The Old Squaw	Pillar

Granite	3	Squaw Creek	Stream
		Squaw Rock	Cape
		Squaw Rock Campground	Locale
Hill	3	Squaw Butte	Summit
		Squaw Butte	Summit
		Squaw Coulee	Valley
Lake	1	Squaw Creek	Stream
Lewis & Clark	3	Squaw Gulch	Valley
		Squaw Gulch Mine	Mine
		Squaw Gulch Mine II	Mine
Lincoln	1	Squaw Creek	Stream
Madison	7	Middle Fork Squaw Creek	Stream
		North Fork Squaw Creek	Stream
		South Fork Squaw Creek	Stream
		Squaw Creek	Stream
		Squaw Creek	Stream
		Squaw Creek Ranch	Locale
		Squaw Creek Spring	Spring
Meagher	2	Squaw Creek	Stream
		Squaw Teat	Pillar
Missoula	3	Squaw Creek	Stream
		Squaw Peak	Summit
		Squaw Peak Trail	Trail
Park	1	Squaw Tit	Summit
Powder River	1	Squaw Creek	Stream
Powell	1	Squaw Gulch	Valley
Ravalli	1	Squaw Peak	Summit
Sanders	5	Squaw Creek	Stream
		Squaw Creek	Stream
		Squaw Pass	Gap
		Squaw Peak	Summit
		Squaw Peak Lookout Station	Locale
Sweet Grass	4	Squaw Gulch	Valley
		Squaw Pass	Gap
		Squaw Peak	Summit
		Squaw Teats	Summit
Yellowstone	2	Squaw Creek	Stream
		Squaw Nipple	Summit

STATE OF MONTANA ADVISORY GROUP
GEOGRAPHIC SITES NAME CHANGE

INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE

The 56th Montana Legislature passed HB 412, CALLING FOR THE REMOVAL OF THE WORD 'SQUAW' FROM MAPS, SIGNS, OR MARKERS. The legislation provided for the appointment of an ADVISORY GROUP to develop replacement names. To this end, the Advisory Group needs the assistance of all interested Montanans, including adults, school children, county/local governments, tribal governments, business's, and professional organizations. You can assist the Advisory Group by completing this form with your recommendations for the name change to a site in your area. Your imput is important to the Advisory Group. All proposals will be given consideration based on merit. PLEASE COMPLETE and return to: Coordinator of Indian Affairs, Rm. 202, State Capitol Bldg., P. O. Box 200503, Helena, MT 59620-0503.

ONE RECOMMENDATION PER FORM — PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT

Proposed Recommended Name: _____

Current Name: _____

County Where Located: _____

General Location: (Give as much of the following locational information as you can)

☐ **Land Feature** ☐ **Water Feature** (for streams, the data below should identify the mouth of the drainage)

Section(s) _____ Township(s) _____ Range(s) _____

Latitude: _____° _____' _____" N S Longitude: _____° _____' _____" N S

Proposed by: _____ ( ) _____
Name *Address* *Phone*

Proposer Represents: ☐ **Government** ☐ **Professional/Business Organization** ☐ **Private Party** ☐ **Student** _____ (*age, optional*)

Name of Govt./Professional/Business Organization: _____

Give Rationale for Your Proposal: (You may use supplemental pages for the following three items. Any additional information, not covered by this form, can be included on the supplemental pages.)

List Any Local Support for Your Proposal: (include any historical documentation - maps, etc.; current private party, or recent professional support)

Is There Any Local Opposition to, or Conflict With Your Proposal? Please List:

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

HB 412 Advisory Committee Meetings

Committee meetings will be scheduled on the 2nd Friday of every other month during 2000 beginning in January with the location to be at the Capitol Building in the Conference Room of the Coordinator of Indian Affairs in Helena, Montana.

Meetings will be subject to cancellation, rescheduling, or may be held at other locations with notice of changes available from the Coordinator of Indian Affairs. All meetings will be open to the public under the Montana Open Meeting Law.

Advisory Committee Meeting Dates in 2000:

January 7
March 10
May 12
July 14
September 8
November 10

For information about meetings, to place items on the agenda, or for other information, contact:

Coordinator of Indian Affairs
Room 202, State Capitol Building
Box 200503
Helena, MT 59620-0503

Phone: (406) 444-3713 Fax: (406) 444-1350 E-mail: lryan@state.mt.us

Montana State Library
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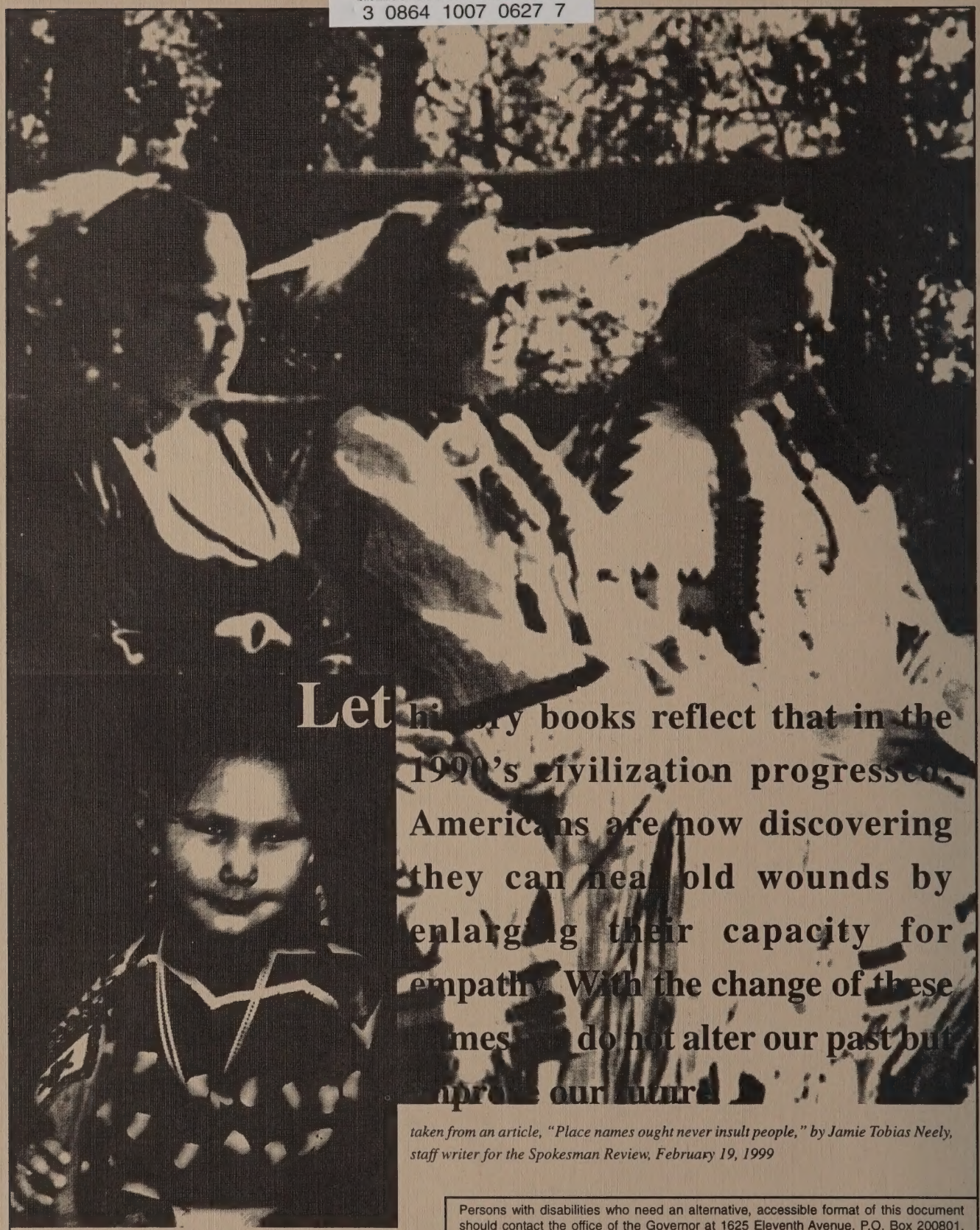

Let history books reflect that in the 1990's civilization progressed. Americans are now discovering they can heal old wounds by enlarging their capacity for empathy. With the change of these times we do not alter our past but improve our future.

taken from an article, "Place names ought never insult people," by Jamie Tobias Neely, staff writer for the Spokesman Review, February 19, 1999

Child Photo © by Carole Juneau

Women Photo © by Susan Reevis-Webber

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